

# NAVY NEWS RELEASE



## NINTH NAVAL DISTRICT

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Naval Hospital Change of Command  
By Navy Journalist Alan J. Fishleder

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A new admiral has taken the helm of the Naval Hospital and Navy Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, Ill.

He is Rear Admiral John H. Cheffey who was recently promoted to the rank of rear admiral.

Admiral Cheffey relieved Rear Admiral John W. Albritten at a ceremony February 14 in the hospital's Memorial Theater. Admiral Albritten will now assume a new post as Deputy Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and Deputy Surgeon General.

Vice Admiral George M. Davis, Chief, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Navy Surgeon General, and Rear Admiral Henry A. Renken, Commandant, Ninth Naval District, participated in the change of command ceremony.

In a short address to the audience, comprised mainly of members of the hospital staff, Admiral Davis pointed out the accomplishments of the hospital under Admiral Albritten, noting that the hospital had become the second largest Naval hospital due to its treatment of Vietnam patients.

Admiral Renken served as guest speaker for the ceremony.

In an earlier ceremony, Admiral Davis presented the Silver Star Medal to Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Douglas L. Wean of Mt. Morris, Ill. Wean received the medal of heroism when he saved the lives of two Marines last September during a North Vietnamese artillery attack on a Marine position in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

Admiral Renken noted that the Great Lakes Naval Hospital had continued to receive recognition as one of the best facilities of its kind in the world under Admiral Albritten's tenure as commanding officer.

"The development of rapid air transportation over the past few years makes it possible for men of all services injured or wounded in Vietnam to be hospitalized at Great Lakes within a matter of a couple of days," he said.

In his remarks to Admiral Cheffey, Admiral Renken said, "I know that this hospital will continue to grow in knowledge, excel in competence, and gain in reputation under your leadership--it is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to Great Lakes."

## NAVAL HOSPITAL CHANGE OF COMMAND 2-2-2

As commanding officer of the Naval Hospital, Admiral Cheffey will lead a complex which treated 12,933 military and dependent patients in 1968, including servicemen from all armed forces wounded in Southeast Asia.

The 1,254-bed hospital has 11 operating rooms and 16 clinics. An average of 1,454 patients were treated daily in 1968 and 1,147 babies were born in the hospital last year.

The Hospital Corps School, which Admiral Cheffey also commands, graduated 3,678 men and women who use their skills in saving the lives of Navy and Marine Corps personnel on ships and stations throughout the world.

Admiral Cheffey is also Ninth Naval District medical officer, assuming responsibility for all Navy medical functions in the 13-state naval district.

Promoted to Rear Admiral February 1, 1969, he was commanding officer of the Naval Hospital, Newport, R.I., before assuming command at Great Lakes.

Between 1964 and 1966, Admiral Cheffey was assistant for Personnel Control and Planning in the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. He also served as a member of the secretary of the Navy's Task Force on Personnel Retention.

In August 1966 he was assigned as Assistant for Personnel to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical), serving with the administration of the Armed Forces Physicians Appointment and Residence Consideration Program.

Admiral Cheffey received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. As a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps, U.S. Army Reserve.

In 1942 he received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. The same year he was commissioned as an acting assistant surgeon with the rank of Lieutenant (junior grade) in the Navy.